TL 6483-40

AMBASSADE VAN HET KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN

ROYAL NETHERLANDS
EMBASSY

no. 1560

COPY

Tokyo, 18 March 1987

Mr Satsuki E D A,
#725, Shugiin Giin Kaikan Nr 2,
Nagata-cho 2-1-2,
Chiyoda-ku,
T O K Y O 100.

Dear Mr Eda,

With reference to our discussions on the Timorese students in Jakarta, I am at present in a position to inform you that the Netherlands authorities have taken careful note of your offer of assistance in finding a solution to the above problem. The Netherlands authorities concerned, whilst thanking you for your spontaneous offer, came, however, to the final conclusion that as the parties concerned in this matter are the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia, and the Netherlands Government merely lends its intermediary in order to facilitate contacts between the two countries involved, it would not be appropriate to use your kind suggestion.

Allow me to provide, for your information, the official statements on this matter made by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in The Hague:

> On October 20, 1986, four students from East Timor presented themselves at the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, where they expressed their wish to leave for Portugal. The Netherlands, as is well known, represent the Portuguese interest in Indonesia. On October 22 the four East Timorese students voluntarily left the Embassy compound, in the company of the Rector of the Atma Jaya University, where three of them are studying. The Rector had agreed to accompany them to the University campus. After this they were given shelter by relatives of one of them.
>
> This conclusion was the result of discussions between the

9199-5-79

COPY

Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affars, Mr H. van den Broek, and his Indonesian colleague, Professor Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja.

On that occasion the latter assured the Netherlands Minister that the four students would not be prosecuted and that they would be able to continue their studies without interruption.

In the meantime the four students submitted applications for the issue of Portuguesa passports. The Portuguese authorities reacted positively and permitted the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta to provide the four students with Portuguese passports. In order to leave Indonesia, however, permission from the Indonesian Government is required.

Upon the receipt of Portuguese authorization the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta applied to the Indonesian authorities for exit-visa. This request is now being considered. So far no permission for departure has been received.

The Netherlands Government deals with this case, which ressorts under the Netherlands representation of Portuguese interests in Indonesia, in close cooperation with the the Government of Portugal and informs that Government of all the details in the ongoing developments. There is no discrepancy between the Netherlands and the Portuguese policy on this matter.

A second statement reads as follows:

The Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, which takes care of the Portuguese interests in Indonesia, has intensively tried for several months at the request of the Portuguese Government to obtain exit visa for Portugal from the Indonesian authorities for four East Timorese students.

However, it must be concluded that these efforts were to no avail. The Indonesian Government has recently communicated that it considers this matter as a purely internal affair, which it does not wish to discuss with others.

The Netherlands Government has informed the Portuguese Government of the Indonesian point of view. The Portuguese Government has expressed its appreciation to the Netherlands Government for the efforts which were made.

The Portuguese Government regrets the Indonesian decision but still intends to try to resolve the matter. It has requested the netherlands Government to continue to follow the fate and wellbeing of the four students. The Netherlands Government has agreed to this, within the limits of its possibilities.

no.1560

COPY

As soon as I receive further information on the developments in this case, I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,
for the Ambassador,

D. Bins.